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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/090,259

03/04/2002

Volker Tegeder

P2001,0150

4203

7590

03/06/2003

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EXAMINER

FAYYAZ, NASHMIYA SAQIB

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,259

Applicant(s)

TEGEDER ET AL.

Examiner

Nashmiya S. Fayyaz

Art Unit

2856

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8-19, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP-1,139,390 - Tegeder et al.

As to claims 1-6, 8-19, and 21-24, Tegeder et al disclose a semi conductor wafer pod with a measurement sensor 305 within housing 109 where the pod "can be connected to the conventional load-port" of a semiconductor manufacture tool, note Figures 1-3 which in Fig. 2 depict foot 201 for stabilizing the pod 109 which also "supports the pod" which can have "rolls" attached "so that the pod can be pushed on the ground floor", see col. 6, lines 36-55. It is noted that Tegeder et al fail to indicate the device as "self-supporting" and indicate that the pod "can be" connected" to the load-port but also indicate that the pod is supported by the foot 21 to be pushed on the ground, which indicates that it is self-supporting. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have defined the Tegeder et al device as "self-supporting" as a matter of design choice since the device can be rolled over the floor via the support and rolls obviously without the support of the stationary load port table. As to claims 3-4, the coupling region is clearly higher than the upper side, see Fig. 2. As to claims 5-6, foot 201 appears to have a recess, see Fig. 2. As to claims 6-17, note cable 204, computer 203 and carrier 202, and connector 206. As to claims 18 or 19 usage of a seal or

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vibration damping would have been obvious for the purpose of maintaining the “clean” air of the tool and protecting against shock damage. As to claims 21-23, various such measuring devices are known in semiconductor testing such that inclusion of any known device is considered to have been an obvious matter of design choice obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, it is unclear whether the housing holds the “semi-conductor product”. Further, it is unclear if the combination of the tool, load port table and metrology device is being claimed or just the metrology device. If the latter is being claimed than the recitation of not being supported by the load port table appears to be merely intended usage and not a claim limitation.

4. Claims 7 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N Fayyaz at telephone number (703) 305-4891.


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N FAYYAZ/pj

02/24/03


DANIEL S. LARKIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER